

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 stand rejected. Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has objected to the information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56a as being incomplete. Applicants respectfully apologize for this typographical error and submit herewith an amended paragraph [0005] in the specification reciting the correct application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6 and 9 according to the Examiner's suggestions. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include "creating a behavioral level description using a descriptive netlist of said circuit," and claims 6 and 9 have been amended to include "forming said behavioral level description to include a descriptive netlist." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1,

6 and 9 now fully describe what level the behavioral design is converted to, as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has stated that claims 5 and 7 include allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for this preliminary indication of allowable subject matter. In the interest of expediting prosecution, the subject matter of claims 5 and 7 has been included in independent claims 1, 6 and 9.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rostoker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,933,356, hereinafter Rostoker) in view of compiler directive commands in behavioral compiler from Synopsys. Claims 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rostoker et al. in view of compiler directive commands in behavioral compiler from Synopsys in view of Hollander (U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,258). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claims 1, 6 and 9 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 7. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include at least "using current time counts of each clock cycle to compute an index for said marker component." Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to include at least "keeping a running count of time during a circuit simulation...and wherein said behavioral level description is comprised of a descriptive netlist." As claims 1, 6 and 9 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 7, Applicants respectfully assert claims 1, 6 and 9 are patentable and in condition for

allowance. In addition, as claims 2-4, 8, and 10-14 each depend from either claims 1, 6 or 9, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Michael L. Taylor, Reg. No. 50,521

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDE/EKS/ps